



News Release

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Wake County SmartStart's Wanda Fowler Receives Professional Recognition

Wanda Fowler recognized for her long-term contributions to the field of early childhood education

RALEIGH, NC – **With over 20 years of experience in early childhood education, Wake County SmartStart Quality Enhancement Specialist Wanda Fowler has been recognized by Wake Technical Community College for her contributions to the field.** A 1988 graduate of Wake Technical Community College and a member of the college's first graduating class in the Early Childhood Education program, Wanda's background includes experience as an early childhood teacher, child care center administrator and center director. After receiving her associate's degree from Wake Technical Community College, Wanda continued to balance work and studies and succeeded in receiving an undergraduate degree in human development/family studies while working in the child care industry.

For the last year, Wanda has worked with child care centers through Wake County SmartStart's Quality Enhancement and Maintenance Initiative (QEI and QMI), through which child care facilities receive a variety of services including consultation, training, and technical assistance at no cost to the facility. Through QEI and QMI, Wanda works with one to three star child care centers and family child care homes to improve both the quality and level of care for children and the level of education for staff in those facilities, as well as with four and five star facilities to assist them in maintaining their higher level of care and licensure. Evenings, when she is not with her own children, Wanda can be found at Wake Technical Community College, where she is an instructor in the Early Childhood Education program.

Since August 2008, through Wake County SmartStart, Wanda has offered technical assistance to Gingerbread LittleVersity in Fuquay-Varina. According to Shannon Page, director of Gingerbread LittleVersity, "Wanda has been a wonderful asset to our organization. She is consistently available to talk with the teachers about any questions or concerns they may have. Wanda is both knowledgeable and passionate about her work, and we appreciate all Wanda does for Gingerbread LittleVersity and the children who attend the center."

"At Wake County SmartStart, our overriding goal is to ensure children are prepared for success in school and in life. Wanda Fowler, through her work with local child care centers, demonstrates true passion for and dedication to our work," explains Elizabeth Santana, Quality Enhancement Initiative Director. "Not only are we at Wake County SmartStart incredibly fortunate to have her with us, Wake County's children are equally as lucky. Wake Technical Community College's recognition of Wanda's contributions to the field of child care further supports what we at Wake County SmartStart already know about Wanda: she is a tremendous advocate for children."

Wake County SmartStart is a nonprofit organization that works to ensure every child in Wake County, birth to 5, is prepared for success in school and life. For more information about Wake County SmartStart, its partners and projects, visit www.wakesmartstart.org or call (919) 851-9550.

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